To the Free and Independent Electors of the
COUNTY OF MEGANTIC.

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GENTLEMEN,

I now address you as free born Britons, about to exercise the very highest and dearest of your civil rights and privileges, namely, YOUR ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.—I am aware that if ever you do fail in the exercise of this privilege, [for men are not infallible,] the error is not of the heart, but of the head; however, this only is the cause, where place or circumstance, coupled with evil council, are ingeniously used to blind your judgments, by appealing to your passions and prejudices. This is the state of things that has existed and governed every one of the late elections [up to this time] in the Lower Province, *under the supreme diction of the dominant faction, whose head-quarters are at Montreal.* This faction is becoming daily and hourly better known, and is working its own destruction; for, as "out of evil cometh good," so is this faction working out its own punishment. It has completely torn the flimsy veil from the eyes of its deluded followers of British origin, and of such Canadians as have the smallest remaining spark of loyalty in the Cities of Quebec and Montreal, by its too successful attempts to reject every candidate of British origin, unless indeed he were a *traitor*, and would become a *ready tool.* The expulsion and rejection of the independent and patriotic ANDREW STUART, (after upwards of twenty years *honest probation*) of John Neilson, Thomas A. Young, and George Pemberton, from the representation of the County and City of Quebec, and the substitution of corrupt or untried Canadians, are proofs of this. What does this indicate?—A vile and unwarrantable attempt to deprive you and every free-born subject of British origin, of even *a speaking voice in the councils of the country*,—for this *speaking* voice is the only exercise you have had in these councils for years past. Who does not know that Mr. Papineau, the leader and head of this blind and deluded faction, can wield such overwhelming majorities in Parliament, as to carry any question he pleases? But not satisfied with these majorities, an attempt is *now* made to deprive you of even a hearing, and here may we say their "vaulting ambition hath o'erleap'd itself." Foreseeing all this, and the confirmation of it in the expulsion of Andrew Stuart, (incontrovertibly the most independent and honest statesman that ever entered the walls of the Assemblies of this Province;) a proposal was made by a number of electors of the County of Megantic, to the Candidates for the representation of that loyal County, by the friends, or rather Committee of Andrew Stuart's friends, [for he has no personal enemies] which would have done immortal honor to them and the electors of Megantic, had they consented unanimously—namely, *to retire in favor of the tried and independent Constitutional Candidate for the Upper Town of Quebec,* ANDREW STUART!!! This propesal was first made to J. G. CLAPHAM, Esq., who, in the handsomest manner signified his immediate readiness to retire from the contest, as requested, which [with his usual magnanimity] he the following evening confirmed, in a neat public address to the electors of the County of Megantic and the Upper Town of Quebec. A similar proposal was made to Mr. Layfield and the address from the Electors of Megantic, was handed to Mr. Layfield in person, by a deputation from Mr. Stuart's Committee, of whom I had the honor to be one; when the answer Mr. Layfield gave us was, "that hewould lay the address before *his Committee immediately* on his arrival at home, and if they consented to

his withdrawing from the contest, he would immediately do so with pleasure ; as he saw how necessary it was to obtain the services of such a man as A. Stuart in Parliament &c." How then did this Mr. Layfield act ? HE PROCEEDED TO LEEDS AND KEPT THE ADDRESS IN HIS POCKET ! Mr. Stuart's Committee hearing nothing direct from Mr. Layfield's Committee on this subject, sent a deputation up to Leeds, to negociate for them, when (Electors hear it !) Mr. Layfield (fearing his Committee would meet the wishes of the deputation) rushed in among them, and with the air of a desperate and ambitious man asked, if his Committee was going to give him up ! ! if they would not stand by him ! ! &c. &c. &c. This base, vacillating, ambitious, and unmanly conduct on the part of Mr. Layfield, compels me to speak plainly, and in doing so I feel confident that I am addressing persons to whom *Mr. Layfield and his works* are not altogether unknown. Mr. L. on arriving at Leed, instead of laying the address of the County of Megantic before his Committee, immediately set about slandering Messrs. Clapham and Stuart, by tantalising Mr. Clapham's friends and supporters, and saying to them, that they and their interests were sold to Mr. Stuart's Committee for £200 !—and that the Committee had offered him, Mr. Layfield, £500 (*which he scorned*) if he also would retire in favour of A. Stuart. In justice to all the parties, but particularly to the electors of Megantic, I feel myself called upon, as one of Mr. Stuart's Committee, to state all these facts plainly, and to add for the information of such as do not know it, that A. Stuart and Mr. Clapham are both independent men, (as independent in purse as in principle) to whom any thing like a bribe, even in the most indirect form, would have been the greatest insult that could have been offered to them, and whose lives have never yet been marked by any dishonorable act. Not so Mr. L., (for I must speak plainly, I say again.) He is known to most of you. He has played many parts upon the stage of life among you, from the time of leaving Sir F. Burton's kitchen, up to the present day, but *never* yet has he played the part of an *honorable man !* But why bandy or pervert terms ? Who ever heard of honor in a thief or independence in a shoeblack ? Is Mr. Layfield a reasoning or reasonable man ? Is he not rather the creature of impulse and passion ? Is he fit, by his habits, by his education, by his talents, by his moral character, or by any other good quality, to represent the loyal, and for the most part educated, electors of Megantic ? Answer this ?—ye know him. Beware I say, of this man. He will, if he succeed in his election, mislead you, as he has already *tried to do*, and misrepresent you as he has already *done*. He is a fit tool for the popular party ! His declaration in favour of the 92 Resolutions (which you have most of you probably never seen or read, but which have for their object, the subversion of British Rights and British Institutions) is one among many proofs. He grounds his claims to success (in the gratification of his towering hopes of ambition) on two points : 1st a local question professedly connected with the interests of Leeds, & 2dly. on an appeal to TRAITORS, if any there be, in support of the 92 Resolutions, the object of which is the sapping of your political rights and institutions. To the Poll ! Forward and shew yourselves as you already have done by voting for an honest and independent man who is above a bribe ! !—That man is J. G. CLAPHAM. Forward, I say, he is worthy of the support of every Free-born Briton ! Do yourselves and your adopted country honor by voting for him ! He I say again, is worthy of the support of the Independent Electors of the County of Megantic. To the Poll and vote for CLAPHAM.

ONE OF STUART'S COMMITTEE.

Quebec, November 8, 1834.